



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0523

July 22, 2020

Mr. Robert Manfred, Jr.
Commissioner
Major League Baseball
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

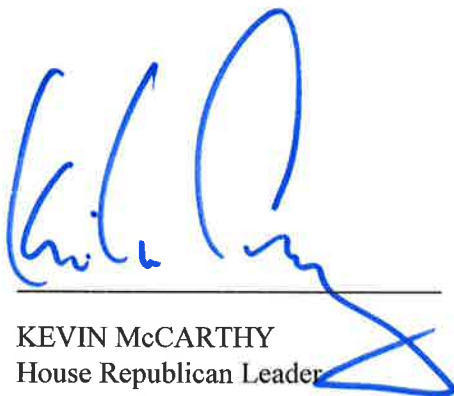
Dear Commissioner Manfred:

We have received hundreds of communications from community leaders, businessowners, and avid baseball fans in our districts expressing concern that the Lancaster JetHawks Minor League Baseball (MiLB) franchise is slated for contraction. As Major League Baseball (MLB) negotiates a new Professional Baseball Agreement and navigates the current uncertain and unprecedented reality due to the coronavirus pandemic, we urge you to reassess and reconsider any proposed elimination of the Lancaster JetHawks as an MiLB affiliate.

The recent announcement regarding the formal cancellation of the 2020 MiLB season reaffirms the economic uncertainty and social consequences that small towns and communities that host MiLB teams are already facing due to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to the financial impact of lost revenue and an economic slowdown due to the pandemic, the City of Lancaster, for example, which invested in a baseball stadium to host a minor league affiliate, faces not only the short-term pain of the cancellation of the 2020 MiLB season, but possibly long-term consequences should the JetHawks be eliminated from MiLB.

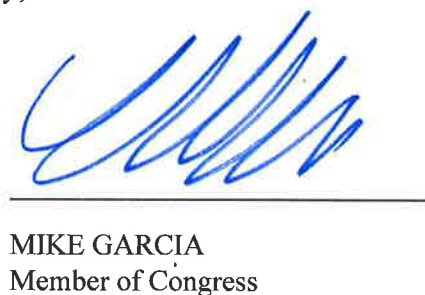
We understand the complicated decisions that MLB faces, both in negotiating a new Professional Baseball Agreement and in discussing the 2020 Major League Baseball season. However, we encourage you to carefully consider the impact that these decisions may have on the small, but baseball-avid, community of Lancaster, California, that has poured economic investment, time, and other resources into supporting an MiLB affiliate that the community is proud to call its own.

We look forward to your response, as well as the return of America's pastime in a few weeks.



KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader

Sincerely,



MIKE GARCIA
Member of Congress